



**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**  
**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**  
**MAIL STOP AF**

Atty. Docket No. 2788 (203-2854)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS: Roby, et al.

EXAMINER: J.K. Michener

SERIAL NO.: 09/964,901

GROUP: 1762

FILED: September 27, 2001

DATED: June 21, 2004

FOR: **SILICONIZED SURGICAL  
NEEDLES AND METHODS FOR  
THEIR MANUFACTURE**

MAIL STOP AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

*DO NOT  
Enter  
JLW  
7/20/04*

**RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 19, 2004, applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application in view of the following amendment and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are set forth on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 21, 2004.

Dated: June 21, 2004

*Jennifer Puente*  
Jennifer Puente